Central fund for forest conservation

1652. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a Central fund for forest conservation;

(b) if so, salient features thereof;

(c) whether Centre has disbursed this fund to the States; and

(d) if so, the details of the amount that has been disbursed to the Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) In pursuance of the Supreme Court order dated : 30th October, 2002 in IA No. 566 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995, a Compensatory Afforestation Fund has been constituted for the purpose of management of money receivable towards compensatory afforestation, net present value and any other money recoverable in pursuance of the Supreme Court order in this regard, and in compliance of the conditions stipulated by the Central Government while according approval to projects for diversion of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry uses of the forest land.

(b) For the management of compensatory afforestation fund, Central Government has also constituted a body to be known as Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). The CAMPA is custodian of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund. This fund constitutes receipt of all monies from user agencies towards compensatory afforestation, net present value of forest land, catchment area treatment plan and/or of compliance of any other condition stipulated by the Central Government while according approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The funds collected by CAMPA are required to be maintained interest bearing account and invested in Reserve Bank of India, Nationalized Banks, Post Office, Government Securities, Government Bonds and deposits. Compensatory Afforestation Fund is required to be utilised as follows:

(i) The money received for compensatory afforestation is required to be used as per the site specific schemes received from the States/Union Territories along with the proposals for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(ii) The money received towards Net Present Value (NPV) is to be used for natural assisted regeneration, forest management, protection, infrastructure development, wildlife protection and management, supply of wood and other forest produce saving devices, and other allied activities.

(iii) Money realized from the user agencies in pursuance of the Supreme Court orders or decision taken by the National Board for Wildlife involving cases of diversion of forest land in protected areas, is required to be put in a corpus and the income is to be used exclusively for undertaking protection and conservation activities in protected areas of the States/UTs.

(iv) CAMPA is required to release the funds to the concerned States/ UTs in predetermined instalments through the State Level Management Committee as per the Annual Plan of Operation finalized by the concerned States/UTs.

(c) and (d) Compesatory Afforestation Fund has not been operationalised so far, and therefore, no funds have been released to the States/UTs from this fund.

Implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

†1653. SHRIKRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is the main hurdle in implementation of "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana" in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of cases for clearance to construct roads in the intervening forest land falling enroute the roads to be constructed that have been forwarded to the Government during the last three years alongwith the number of such proposals cleared and pending till date; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to seek a permanent solution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.